

Appln. No. Serial No. 10/676,943
Attorney Docket No.: 44471/292886
Response in Appln, Reply to Office Action of May 9, 2007
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REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, Claims 7 and 8 will be pending in this application. Claims 1-6 have been canceled and new Claims 7 and 8 have been added. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that Claims 7 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS 7 and 8

The Examiner in rejecting Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 alleged that the limitation that the insulator is disposed between the conductive pusher and the switch was obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,992,565 to Giesler ("Giesler") and U.S. Patent No. 6,779,719 to Guindulain Vidondo ("Guindulain Vidondo"). The Examiner alleged that Giesler discloses electrically insulated pads, which correspond to the insulator of the present invention; and Guindulain Vidondo and Giesler disclose a product selection button and a push button switch, respectively, that corresponds to the switch of the present invention. Applicants disagree that the claimed location of the insulator (*i.e.*, disposed between the conductive pusher and the switch) would be obvious in light of the two references, Giesler and Guindulain Vidondo, because the electrode pads taught by Giesler are provided to make the actuation members electrically insulated from the vehicle (Col. 7, lines 4-6; Figs. 3 and 4). Thus the combination of Giesler and Guindulain Vidondo by a person of ordinary skill in the art would result in a product selection button or push button that is electrically insulated from a vehicle or other base station housing. The combination would not result in "an insulator disposed between the conductive pusher and the switch to prevent the electric field induced in the pusher from leaking to the switch" as required by Claims 7 and 8.

New Claims 7 and 8 are supported by the specification (*see e.g.*, [0042], lines 1-5; Fig. 5). No new matter has been added. Claims 7 and 8, more specifically define a sales processor that regularly sends a connection confirmation packet to inform the wallet manager of the presence of the vending machine. This claimed feature permits the detection of a user and the establishment of a communication to occur smoothly. None of the references relied

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upon by the Examiner describe a sales processor that regularly sends a connection confirmation packet.

Applicants believe that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the claimed insulator and sales processor features as recited by Claims 7 and 8, and submit that Claims 7 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 9, 2007